



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme  
2 Ferry Road  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
(860) 434-8686  
Website: [www.fccol.org](http://www.fccol.org)

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME  
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister  
Carleen R. Gerber, Senior Associate Minister  
Joan W. Priest, Visitation Minister  
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music

**December 24, 2017**

**5:00 PM**

\*Processional Hymn: #132 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*Call to Worship

\*Invocation

\*The Lord's Prayer

Welcome

**The Christmas Story:**

**The Holy Family:** Kristin, Rosie and Eva Smith and Liam Clark

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Kristin Smith

**The Arch Angel:**

Gisele Ingabire

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-14

\*Hymn #137 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**The Shepherds:**

Steven Evankow, Eli Doggart,

Conrad French, Riley Fruth, Leland Hine, Finn McGannon and Jacob Tuck

*We especially thank Steven Evankow for sharing with us his alpaca*

*"Pumpkin" (weather permitting).*

Scripture: Luke 2: 15-20

Conrad French

Special Music: *Whatcha Gonna Call That Baby*

Phyllis Wolfe White

Children's Choir

**The Kings:**

Scripture: Matthew: 2: 1-11

Sean McCarty

Anthem: "We Three Kings" Sean McCarty, Alan Macgregor & Scott Mahon

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection: *Dormi, Dormi* Traditional Italian Lullaby

Children's Choir

*Our offering this evening will go to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund,  
used locally to assist those in need with housing, food, fuel and  
special medical assistance. We ask that you give generously.*

Offertory Prayer

### **Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting**

**Arch Angel:** Tessa Allen

**Angels:** Bella Hine, Caroline French, Liliana and Madalyn Johnson

Christmas Readings

\*Hymn #142 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Christmas Prayer

\*Recessional Hymn: #134 "Joy to the World"

Postlude

\*Congregation standing

***The Deacon on Duty is Scott Mahon.***

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We thank you for worshipping with us. Following the life and teachings of Jesus, we are a church that strives to be a place of grace, welcoming all regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means. In our Church Constitution we recognize that "each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit." The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, established in 1665, cherishes this proud Pilgrim tradition. We are honored by your presence among us, and we invite you to help us become what we endeavor to be.

***Thank you to all who have  
helped make Christmas Eve so special.***

Members of the Children's Choir

Director

***Lisa Feltes***

***Julia Clark***

***Bettina Irakiza***

***Kelton Jarvis***

***Lillian Jarvis***

***Sabina Jungkeit***

***Elsa Jungkeit***

***Ella Kiem***

***Josephine Kiem***

***Sofia Noti***

***Taylor Quintin***

*The Rev. David W. Good serves as our Minister Emeritus.*

*The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby is our Minister for Haitian Outreach.*

*Thomas Burke (4<sup>th</sup> year Yale Divinity School student) serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel.*

## ‘God’s Neighborhood’ Christian Education Program

Welcome to ‘God’s Neighborhood’, the Christian Education program for Toddlers through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Our program runs from the second Sunday in September through the first Sunday in May, and we meet from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Each week we focus on a scriptural-based lesson plan that is explored through discussion and an activity (arts and crafts, music, dancing, drama, writing, and games). Our aim is to build community, help the children to apply the scriptural lessons and concepts to their lives, and to see our Christian faith as relevant and necessary for our lives today. We emphasize both the inward development of a spiritual life and the outward practice of mission work, which are naturally intertwined and grow from each other. Our church has a strong sense of mission, and we believe that our children enjoy participating in many mission-based projects.

**Preschool through Fifth Grade Children** attend the 9 am worship service with their parents and regularly serve as ushers during this service. After the children’s sermon, the children proceed to their classes for a one-hour program 9:30 to 10:30 am. Parents are encouraged to join the fellowship hour after the 9:00 am service.

**Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 6-8):** In addition to the Sunday morning program from 9:30 to 10:30 am, the JPF gathers for extra-curricular activities aimed at nurturing fellowship and building faith. Activities range from faith-based field trips and activities to pizza parties. JPF joins the SPF students in the annual Breakfast Run.

**Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 9-12)** encourages all students to attend church on a regular basis, and therefore, do not meet formally on Sunday mornings but periodically each month. SPF young people are always welcome to assist in our youth programs and/or join us in the JPF room on Sunday mornings. We offer a wide variety of programs including mission trips, field trips, camping, participation in church and community services, volunteer work in the soup kitchen/food pantry ministries, and the annual Midnight Run, where clothes are gathered and brought to a shelter for the homeless in New York City. In April each year the youth travel to Haiti to work with the Crosby Fund. SPF also periodically assists in the pulpit reading scripture and serving as ushers.

**Confirmation Class** is offered in the spring to all youth in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade who want to be confirmed, learn more about the workings and history of our church and become a full member of the church. Volunteer work is included in the program. Registration is in February.

**Our offering this evening will go to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund, used locally to assist those in need with housing, food, fuel and special medical assistance. We ask that you give generously.**

*Ministers' Discretionary Fund*

The Ministers' Discretionary Fund, for which we will receive donations on Christmas Eve, is the fund within our church that is used to help individuals and families with personal needs throughout the year. In the winter months, the need for fuel assistance is often critical, but there are all kinds of special needs that are handled with discretion by the ministers in all seasons. These might include partial rent assistance, help with an electric bill, a medical need, or countless other possibilities. Approximately \$40,000 was dispersed this year.

The Board of Missions gives money to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund each year out of their allocation from the operating budget. The Ladies Benevolent Society, using their profits from the annual White Elephant Sale, also contributes generously each year. Occasionally there are gifts from citizens within the wider community who hear about our work and want to be supportive, but **the largest single collection comes in the form of the Christmas Eve offering.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM**  
and no Sunday School that day

*The church office will be closed Monday, December 25th and January 1st.*

*We resume our regular 9 and 11 services on Sunday, January 7th.*

*The Rev. David W. Good serves as our Minister Emeritus.*  
*The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby is our Minister for Haitian Outreach.*  
*Thomas Burke (4<sup>th</sup> year Yale Divinity School student)*  
*serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel.*

Annual reports from Boards and Committees are due Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

**The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28, 2018, after the 11:00 AM service.**

**Mission Outreach**  
**at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme in 2017**

This evening's offering will be used to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. This fund dispersed about \$40,000 this past year to support families in need.

Also, in this past year, \$85,000 was dispersed by the Board of Missions to agencies within our community, New London County and the world. An additional \$75,000 was given by the Ladies Benevolent Society of our church – an extraordinary amount made possible by the hard work and success of the White Elephant Sale.

Special gifts made by families in our congregation enabled us to purchase a house designated for use in our Refugee Resettlement work. The dollar amount given was \$188,075; but additionally, there were a large number of volunteers who gave of their time and talent in making the house ready – updated, painted and furnished!

\$8,902 was raised by our Immigration Assistance Committee to help those facing a challenge in status of citizenship, and over \$300 was given to the work of Crop Walk, UNICEF and Heifer International.

\$7,711 was raised for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" mission work of the UCC, and an additional \$6,904 was given to support the operation of the food pantry which takes place here every Saturday. \$1,680 was given additionally for hurricane and flood relief in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Thus, in total, more than \$310,000.00 in aid and support was made possible through the generosity of the people of this church.

**All the agencies supported by this church  
are listed below in random order:**

The United Church of Christ; The Storefront Academy of Harlem, NYC; One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC); Homeless Hospitality Center of New London; the Hospital Chaplaincy Programs of L&M and Middlesex Hospitals; Habitat for Humanity of SECT; Bethlehem University in Palestine; Safe Futures of New London (formerly the Women's Center of New London); New London Soup Kitchen; Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries; The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education; Thames River Family Program; the Martin House; the Alliance for Living of SECT; the Covenant Shelter of New London; the International Rescue Committee of New York; the Midnight Run of New York City; the Shepherd's Field School of Beit Sahour, Palestine; Old Lyme Children's Learning Center; Old Lyme Visiting Nurse; Center for Hospice Care of SECT; Connecticut Hospice of Branford; Hospice and Palliative Care of Middlesex Hospital; Lymes' Senior Center; Estuary Council of Seniors; Literacy Volunteers; Morningstar Camp; Veteran Assistance Program; Warm the Children Fund; Church World Service; New Life Prison Ministry; the Ministers' Discretionary Fund of FCCOL; FRESH New London; Riverfront Children's Center; Camp Claire in Lyme; The Major Edward A. Good Home for Veterans in New London (managed by the Homeless Hospitality Center); Barbara Fund of the York Prison; Lymewood Elderly Housing; Tree of Life Educational Fund; Ct. Coalition to End Homelessness; India micro-credit of Franciscan Brotherhood; Tribal Crafts; Every Dollar Feeds Kids; Middle East Children's Alliance; and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, Inc. of New Haven, Ct.